

## 3.4 Christian Festivals



# Christmas



# Christmas

- The Christmas season begins with Advent
- Advent starts 4 Sundays before Christmas
- Most Christians celebrate Christmas on Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Orthodox celebrate Christmas on January 7<sup>th</sup>



# Festivals: Christmas

- Tradition of gift giving has two different origins:
- Matthew tells the story of the three Wise Men, Magi, who followed star that led them to Jesus.
- They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (perfumes).





# Festivals: Christmas

- Also, ancient Roman practice of year-end gift giving to honour Saturn, god of harvest.
- Also honoured Mithras, god of light.
- Church adapted these Roman practices for their own religious purposes.



# Festivals: Epiphany

- January 6<sup>th</sup>, commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.
- Some Christian countries, gift-giving takes place on this day and is spread out over the “twelve days of Christmas.”



# Lent



# Lent

- Begins two months after Christmas and lasts for 40 days
- 40 days representing the length of time Jesus spent on his meditative journey in the desert before he began his public ministry



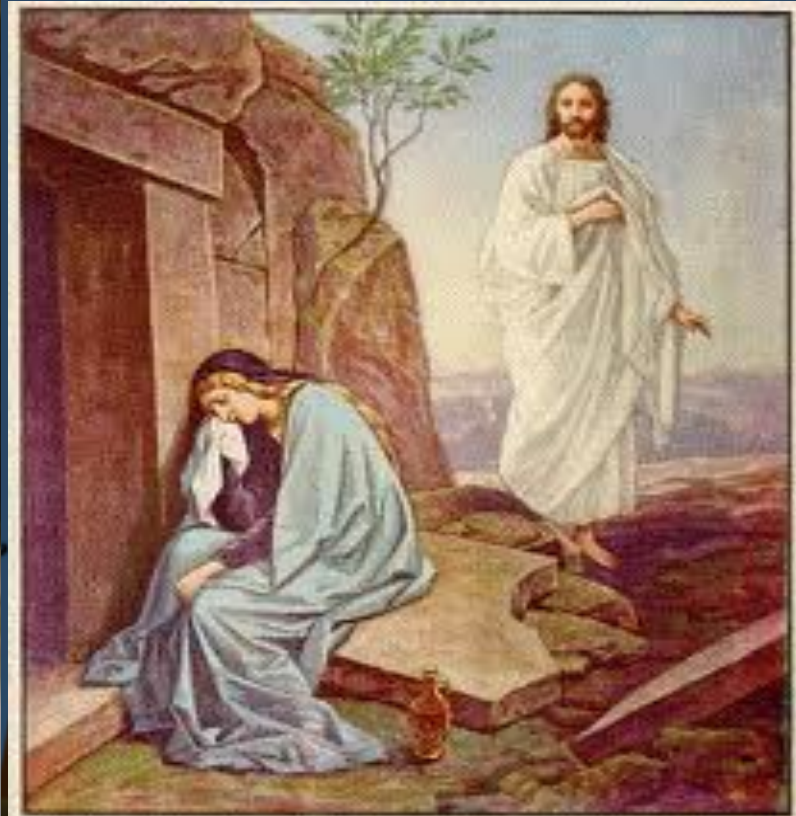


# Lent

- Traditionally lent is a time of fasting, prayer and spiritual self assessment
- Ash Wednesday the day which begins the Lenten season, some Christians are marked on their forehead with ashes to remind them that they are mortals, and will return to dust upon their death



# Easter



# Easter

- Holy Week, the holiest period of the Christian calendar
- Begins on the Sunday before Easter which is known as Palm Sunday
- On this day Christians celebrate the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed by crowds holding palm branches



# Easter

- Holy Thursday, marks the day of the last supper.
- Good Friday, commemorates the trial, conviction, death and burial of Jesus
- Easter Sunday,, the most holy of Christian celebrations





# Easter

- Easter Sunday marks the resurrection of Jesus and the events surrounding it (starting with the women finding the empty tomb)



# Festivals: Easter

- Easter celebrates triumph over sin and death.





# Saints' Days



# Saints Days

- The early Christians began to direct prayer and reverence to **Saints** or holy people, and martyrs, who had died for their faith
- Saints are considered to be with God in heaven and can therefore hear our prayers





# Saints Days

- In Canada only a few saints, such as



# Saints

## St. Juliana

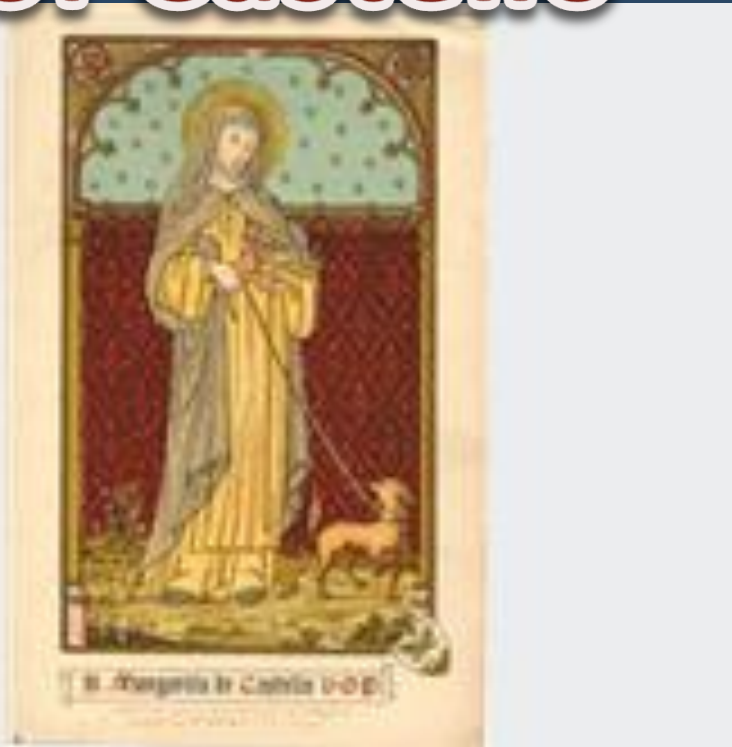


SAINT OF  
CHRONIC  
ILLNESS



Saints

# Blessed Margaret of Castello



The Patron  
Saint of  
Disabilities

